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had referred him. The meagreness and shallowness of the views he would sometimes find would be not unlikely to repel him from further attempts to obtain a satisfying view of the topic. It might no doubt be urged that Dr. Carpenter is not responsible for the feebleness of many of the books which deal with English literature ; but the trouble is that the feebleness, where it exists, is only set off and emphasized by the somewhat elaborate schemes which Dr. Carpenter presents. In some parts of the *Spenser Guide*, the disparity in question is still more pronounced than in the present pamphlet ; yet it is even here sufficiently marked. In so far, however, as the impression is due to a real deficiency in English scholarship, Dr. Carpenter will no doubt be only too glad to have called attention to it, and from this point of view the more unpleasantly it affects his readers, the better.

Students of English in this country will soon need a kind of clearing-house for productions belonging to the general class of this *Guide*, an agency to which they may send for all sorts of semi-privately printed syllabi, dissertations, and books belonging to the province of English scholarship, with the assurance that their queries will elicit full information, and that their orders will be speedily filled if the works demanded are at all attainable. At present, one may often grope in the dark for lack of some pamphlet of whose existence he is unaware, or which he is uncertain how to procure. Fortunately, it is possible to obtain Dr. Carpenter's brochure by sending a matter of forty cents to the University of Chicago Press.

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ALBERT S. COOK.

Keats and Spenser. A Dissertation. By W. A. Read. Heidelberg, 1897. Pp. 60.

THE study of literary influences and affiliations, while very attractive and well suited for monographs and dissertations, is one of considerable delicacy and difficulty. Dr. Read has handled his subject in a creditable manner. His study comprehends an Introduction, rehearsing the views of recent critics upon the subject of Spenser's influence on Keats ; a chapter (not quite exhaustive) on the Biographical Evidence and Personal Testimony ; a chapter (the main contribution of the study) on Language (*i.e.* Spenserian diction in Keats) ; a chapter on Metre (Keats' use of the Spenserian stanza

and of other metrical devices characteristic of Spenser) ; and, finally, a chapter discussing traits in common of a more general nature. Dr. Read's thesis is that the influence of Spenser was not limited to Keats' early period, but that this influence 'increased with the growth of Keats' poetic powers,' especially 'as far as diction is concerned.' Although the thesis is doubtless well founded on the whole, it requires a somewhat more discriminating statement than it receives in this study, while the contention in regard to diction, especially, is probably overstated. Many of the peculiarities of diction, however, noted by the author in addition to those listed by Mr. W. T. Arnold, are significant and important. Others listed as 'Probably Borrowed' are mostly 'fanciful' or highly uncertain. Some of the strongest evidence cited (as, for example, on pages 28, 29), in the way of similarity of imagery and idea, is not brought into sufficient prominence. Although much is added in this study, the subject is not yet exhausted.

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Die Altsächsische Bibeldichtung (Heliand und Genesis).
Erster Theil: Text herausgegeben von Paul Piper. J. G.
Cotta'sche Buchhandlung: Stuttgart 1897. Pp. cvi, 486.
(Denkmäler der Aelteren Deutschen Litteratur, Erster
Band.)

OF the Heliand editions that were heretofore available none could be said to be satisfactory in every respect. Behaghel's careful print, while answering admirably the purposes of such a publication, was yet a text-edition chiefly and could be used to good advantage only under certain favorable conditions. The scholarly edition of Sievers, the one from which probably most of us have learned the best we know about Heliand and Old Saxon, had in the course of nearly twenty years come to be in need of revision, owing to the subsequent discovery of new Ms. material and to the revival of Heliand-studies, chief among which was the master's own work on the rhythm of the alliterative verse. And Heyne's edition never was up to date; his faulty Old Saxon, like the Old English of his *Beowulf*, makes his text rather unfit for the use of the students to whose needs his editions are otherwise well adapted. A new edition of Heliand was therefore